

Message Text

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TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJ: W/W: A & D: VISIT TO LOS REYES PRISON, MAY 14, 1975;

LECUMBERRI PRISON MAY 14, 1975, SANTA MARTHA PRISON MAY 16,
1975

PASS TO: CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS.

LOS REYES. FIFTEEN OUT OF 42 WOMEN APPEARED FOR VISIT:
PATRICIA KUIT, SUSAN ANITA JONES, JOAN SAULACICH,
JAN CASKEY, ROSALINDA GARCIA, TERESA MILLER, LINDA
QUINTERO, ELIZABETH LANKTON, JEAN MCMICHAEL, DOROTHY
TETTERTON, JULIE ANN EVERS, BRENDA RICHARDS, BONNIE
ZAKE, JANE RUSK, SHIRLEY HUNTER. ALL WERE IN GOOD
SPIRITS AND INDICATED THEY WERE PLEASED WITH TOTAL
CHANGE IN EMBASSY PERSONNEL DEALING WITH ARRESTS.
MOST COMPLAINTS CENTERED ON ATTORNEYS AND CONFISCATION
OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS, WITHOUT RECEIPT, AT TIME OF
ARREST. WOMEN CONFIRMED JULYAN'S REPORT OF HIS MAY 9
VIST, SAYING HE HAD CONVINCED THEM THEY WERE NOT "GOING
HOMERIGHT AWAY." THEY SAID HE HAD ENCOURAGED THEM TO
COOPERATE WITH EMBASSY. MOST SEEMED IN GOOD HEALTH.

2. LECUMBERRI. ELEVEN OUT OF THE FIFTY-TWO AMERICANS IN
CELL BLOCK "O" APPEARED FOR VISIT: GEORGE DEWEY, FRANK
LOCKE, JAMES MITCHELL, BRIAN MCCLAIM, JAMES CALHOUN,
MICHAEL CELANI, BILLY JOE SMITH, DON BRASWELL, BRIAN
FITZPATRICK, FRANK RENNA, VINCE BALVIN. IN COMPARISON TO
OTHER PRISONS IN THIS CONSULAR DISTRICT, GENERAL ATMOSPHERE
HERE CAN BEST BE DESCRIBED AS VOLATILE. ALL PRISONERS WERE
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COURTEOUS, BUT AT SAME TIME SOME WERE VERY TENSE, WHILE

OTHERS WERE VERY DEPRESSED. THEY SHOWED ALMOST TOTAL INDIFFERENCE TO MR. JULYAN'S VISIT.

3. CONOFFS HAD UNUSUALLY DIFFICULT TIME IN ENTERING THE PRISON THIS TIME, AND ALSO ON ONE SUBSEQUENT SHORT ERRAND. THEY ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING ADDITIONAL CONTACTS WITHIN PRISON ADMINISTRATION TO FACILITATE THESE AND OTHER WORKING RELATIONSHIP.

4. GENERAL COMPLAINTS WERE OVER THE APPARENT DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING "COMMISSIONED" JOBS, WHICH SEVERAL HAVE SAID COSTS ABOUT \$120 DOLLARS TO ARRANGE. SEVERAL PRISONERS ARE TRYING TO ARRANGE A TRANSFER TO SANTA MARTA SEVERAL MENTIONED HAVING BEEN BEATEN, TORTURED, ETC. BUT SAID THEY DID NOT WANT US TO DO ANYTHING BECAUSE THEN THERE WOULD BE REPRISALS AGAINST THEM. THERE WERE ALSO SEVERAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE COST OF LIVING AT LECUMBERRI. IN CONTRAST TO MOST OTHER PRISONS IN CONSULAR DISTRICT, INMATES MUST PAY FOR BEDS, MATTRESSES, TOOTH PASTE, TOILET PAPER, BLANKETS, AND POSSIBLY OTHER BASIC ITEMS. COL. EDILBERTO GIL CARDENAS AND FERNANDO GARDINER PASCUAL ARE TWO INDIVIDUALS WITHIN ADMINISTRATION WHO CONTINUE TO BE MENTIONED FREQUENTLY BY PRISONERS WHO CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF EXTORTION OR PHYSICALLY MISTREATED.

5. SATE MARTA. TWENTY FOUR OUT OF TWENTY SEVEN AMERICAN APPEARED; KENNETH BARTON, ERNEST MACHADO, FRANK NICHOLSON, DONNY JOE GREGG, EDWARD REYNOLDS, GARY HINTON, DAVID ALSOP, PHILLIP MILLARD, WILLIM WHITE, DAVID STEWART, MICHAEL HEINECHEN, ROBERT SEXTON, RUDOLPH FENTON, RICHARD DEMOSS, WILLIAM KIMBLE, RON ATWOOD, GORDON DUNLOP, RAY PEARCE, GEORGE SMITH, FRED CADENA, PAXTON LEE TAYLOR, STEVE WALTERS, JEFF BLACKBURN, BRUCE KIEBELE.

6. CONOFFS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY RETAIL MERCHANT WHO OPERATES A BOUTIQUE IN MEXICO CITY. SHE HAD HEARD FROM CONOFFS ABOUT HANDICRAFTS PRISONERS AT SANTA MARTA WERE MAKING AND WANTED TO EXPLORE MARKETING POSSIBILITIES. CONOFFS TALKED WITH SEVERAL AMERICANS THERE WHO WERE UNCLASSIFIED

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INVOLVED IN LEATHERWORK, CANDLEMAKING, JEWELRY, RUG-MAKING, AND STAINED GLASS WORK. GENERAL QUALITY SEEMED VERY IMPRESSIVE AND POSSIBILITY OF BAZAAR WAS DISCUSSED. RETAIL MERCHANT TOOK SEVERAL ITEMS FOR DISPLAY IN HER SHOP. PRISON AUTHORITIES SEEMED RATHER PROUD OF HANDICRAFT PRODUCTS, AND TIME PRISONERS SPENT MAKING THEM WAS ON "COMMISSIONED" BASIS.

7. TWO PRISONERS HAVE APPARENTLY FINISHED THEIR TIME, AFTER SUBTRACTING HALF OF THE TIME SPENT ON "COMMISSIONED" JOBS FROM THEIR ORIGINAL SENTENCES. HOWEVER THEY HAVE NOT YET BEEN RELEASED. EMBASSY IS INVESTIGATING.

8. MANY PRISONERS COMPLAINED HERE ABOUT DIET. THEY SAID THAT DUE TO LACK OF MILK OR OTHER SOURCE OF CALCIUM, THEIR TEETH ARE SUFFERING. DENTAL PROBLEMS ARE IN FACT QUITE FREQUENT. ALSO MENTIONED IS LACK OF FRESH VEGETABLES AND FRUIT. THERE APPARENTLY ARE NO REFRIDGERATION FACILITIES. THAT CAN BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THIS, PRISON DIRECTOR SAID PART OF THE REASON WAS THAT VENDOR HAD BEEN SELLING ORANGES INJECTED WITH ALCOHOL.

9. DISCUSSINS WITH DIRECTOR AND PRISONERS WERE UNUSUALLY CORDIAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE. THOSE PRISONERS WHO HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM LECUMBERRI WERE UNANIMOUS IN SAYING THERE WERE "BETTER OFF" AT SANTA MARTA.
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